मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या इस तरह के निर्देशन इन विद्यालयों को और अध्यापकों को जारी किये जायेंगे कि वे आरक्षण नीति का भी अनुसूचित जातियों के बच्चों को दाखिले में सख्ती से अनुपालन करें ?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : यह तो कोई एतराज की बात ही नहीं । अगर कहीं ऐसा नहीं हो रहा है, तो उसे निश्चित रूप से किया जाएगा .

*108. [*The questioners (Shri Chatturanan Mishra and Shri Jagadish Jani) were absent. For answer vide col,* 41-42 infra].

*109. [*The questioner (Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 42-43 infra].

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Sir, I put the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot put the question on behalf of somebodyelse.

चुनावों में इलैक्ट्रोनिक यंत्रों का प्रयोग†

110. श्री अजीत जोगी :
*****
कुमारी आलिया :

क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी** कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को चुनावों में होने वाले व्यय में कमी करने के लिए चुनावों में इलैक्ट्रोनिक-यंत्रों का प्रयोग आरम्भ करने के लिए सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और क्या इस संबंध में कोई कार्य-योजना बनाई गई है ; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) निर्वाचन-आयोग के पास कितने इलैक्ट्रोनिक-यंत्र हैं और इन पर कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई है ; और

(घ) निर्वाचन आयोग ने इन यंत्रों का अब तक कितनी बार प्रयोग किया है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Representation of the People Act, 1951, has been amended by inserting section 61A enabling the use of electronic machines. The design of the electronic voting machines was finalised and two public sector undertakings have already started producing machines. So far, 1,50,444 machines have been acquired at a cost of around Rs. 75.25 crores. These machines have been distributed among the State Governments and the Union Territories.

It is proposed to use the electronic voting machines in all bye-elections and countermanded elections which may be held after 1st October, 1991. It is expected that after five years, these machines will be used in all elections.

(d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ajit P. K. Jogi.

Statement

Constituencies where Electronic voting Machines were used

Name of the State	Nature of Election	No. and Name of constituency where voting machines were used	Month and year of Election	Number of Machines used
1. Kerala . . .	General	70-Parur A.C.	May, 1982	50
2. Nagaland . . .	Do.	10-Northern Angami A.C.	Nov., 1982	12
3. Andhra Pradesh .	Do.	11-Shadnagar (SC) A.C.	Jan, 1983	126
4. Karnataka . .	Do.	84-Shanthinagar (SC) A.C.	Jan., 1983	75*
5. Tripura . . .	Do.	9-Banamalipur A.C.	Jan., 1983	12*
6. Delhi . . .	Do.	1-Sarojini Nagar M.C.	Feb., 1983	26*
7. Delhi . . .	Do.	3-Gole Market (SC) M.C.	Feb., 1983	27*
8. Delhi . . .	Do.	5-Delhi Cantt. M.C.	Feb., 1983	25*
9. Arunachal Pradesh .	Bye election	22-Roing A.C.	April, 1983	25
10. Bihar . . .	Do.	199-Chandi A.C.	June, 1983	159
11. Tripura . . .	Do.	18-Charilam A.C.	Nov., 1983	19

A.C.=Assembly Constituency, M. C.=Metropolitan Council

*One common machine was used in two polling stations located in the same premises.

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि इलैक्ट्रानिक मशीनों का उपयोग कुछ प्रांतों में किया गया है । मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जहां-जहां चुनाव में इलेक्ट्रानिक मशीनों का उपयोग हुआ है, उनके संदर्भ में क्या मंत्रालय द्वारा कोई अध्ययन किया गया, यह जानने के लिए कि जहां इलैक्ट्रानिक मशीनों का उपयोग हुआ है, वहां उस उपयोग के कारण—(क) क्या वोट करने में समय में बचत हुई, (ख) क्या वोट देने वाले मतदाताओं को वोट देने में अधिक सहूलियत हुई, (ग) क्या ऐसे मतदान केन्द्रों में अपेक्षतया रिजेक्टेड मतदान पत्रों की संख्या कम है, तथा (घ) क्या ऐसे मतदान केन्द्रों में जो चुनाव के संदर्भ में मेल-प्रेक्टिसेज होती है, उसकी तादाद में भी कोई कमी आई है ?

क्या ऐसा कोई अध्ययन किया गया है, जिससे यह पता चले कि इलैक्ट्रानिक मशीनों के उपयोग करने से चुनाव में इन संदर्भों में जिन चार संदर्भों का मैंने उल्लेख किया, कोई सुधार हुआ है और विशेषकर क्या वह यह बतायेंगे कि ऐसा कोई अध्ययन हुआ है क्या, या ऐसी कोई जांच हुई है कि इलैक्ट्रानिक मशीनों का उपयोग करने से जो मतदान केन्द्रों पर कब्जा करने की अर्थात् बूथ कैप्चरिंग की जो प्रवृत्ति है, उसमें भी कमी हो सकती है ?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have already laid a statement on the Table of the House identifying the eleven States where we have tried out the electronic voting machines. (*Interruptions*). The hon. Member must read the statement.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Has any study been made to see and compare? That is my question.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I am replying. And we have looked into it. We have found that by using electronic voting machines, the need for having ballot paper is not there. Therefore, there is a saving on account of paper and printing. No ballot boxes are required. There is reduction in polling material and stationery; there is reduction in polling personnel also. We have even tried this out in tribal areas as may be seen and it was found that these machines are easier, simpler and consume less time. There was no difficulty in so far as the electorate is concerned. The fact is that there are other benefits including easier and quicker voting, quicker recording of votes which cannot be subsequently tampered with; there is total elemination of invalid votes. There is no provision in the machine to record invalid votes at all and it is generally found to be very satisfactory.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Sir, in regard to booth-capturing he did not mention anything.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, even in regard to booth-capturing, other than carrying away the machine, there is very little that can be done...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says machine-capturing...

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में यह कहा है कि आगामी 5 वर्षों में राष्ट्र में चनाव में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मशीनों का ही उपयोग किया जाएगा । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इलैक्ट्रॉनिक मशीनों का उपयोग करने में प्रति मतदान केन्द्र कितना व्यय होगा और पूरे राष्ट्र में कितना व्यय होगा ? क्या इसका प्रावधान रखा जा रहा है जिससे आगामी 5 वर्षों में इन्हीं मशीनों का उपयोग किया जा सके ?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to what the actual running expenditure will be when we use the machine for five years, I do not have the figures available with me at the moment. I shall produce them and give them to the hon. Member, but with regard to the cost, the requirement is about six lakh voting machines if we have to conduct all the elections. We have already acquired 1.5 lakh voting machines. Another 4.5 lakh voting machines have to be acquired. At the rate of Rs. 5,000/- per machine, it would cost about Rs. 225 crores. It will be provided for. We hope that it will be in the Plan expenditure too.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, when in this supreme August House itself the electronic voting machines are not working properly,...(*Interruptions*)... how can we believe that the electronic machines in the constituencies will work properly? So, are there any precautionary measures for the proper functioning of these machines? In the case of failure will there be any alternative arrangements made?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, this was shown to all the Members of Parliament, leaders of the Opposition; everybody saw the functioning of it and everybody was satisfied. I hope there won't be a complaint of this type in using the machine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says' "If this machine fails, what will you do?" That is what he wants to know.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: They will not fail. These are new machines and they have not failed anywhere. ....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said, "they will not fail."

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: If they fail,we can have them repaired. What is there, Sir. It is a question of a few hours.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, if is a question of a few hours only, then why not have these machines repaired?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are very old.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Sir, my first point is, in this House itself we have experienced what Dr. Reddy has told us. I only agree with him. My second point is, each machine is going to cost about Rs. 5,000/- and the hon. Minister has given certain overall calculations. Sir, I am not very proficient in arithmetic. However, whatever the figure is considering the present resource crunch in our country I would like to know whether Rs. 250 crores are to be spent on this account only, to meet the fads of certain people and the craze for electronic machines where it is not absolutely needed; I would like to know whether we should go in for this colossal expenditure unwarrantedly for the time being.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, actually, unfortunately it is not because of any fad or any other wish to go in for electronic machines. It has been found that it economically much cheaper to go in for these machines because it is not only that the recurring expenditure that we have in elections is very much higher, but also it does away with a lot of malpractices that actually take place during elections. We are all familiar with them. It is much cheaper in the long run. It is an economically feasible and viable project and I would like to categorically go on record that the Electoral Reforms Committee which has representatives of all political parties, has actually seen the demonstration of the working of the machine and a technical expert committee has looked into it and is satisfied and recommended that this machine should be used.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Secondly, I would like to know whether the components of this machine would be entirely indigenous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it entirely indigenous?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: It is entirely indigenous. It is made by two public companies out of indigenous components.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: I would just like to point out that the systems that we have here are so old and primitive when comapred to modern electronic systems. Practically electronic systems change from hour to hour. I have no doubt that if we introduce the electronic system much of the trouble that we see now in our voting system will disappear and, therefore, I think, purely for being up-to-date and modern we should introduce electronic system as quickly as possible and a lot of these phoney things that are going on will automatically disappear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants them to be expedited. Will you expedite?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I would like to thank him for the suport and we are definitely going to expedite it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will expedite it.

Functioning of Central Universities

*111. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the annual expenditure on each of the Central Universities for the last three years;

(b) what guidelines have been issued by the University Grants Commission to the Central Universities for maintaining their All India character; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure their smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.